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ARAB STATES/PAKISTAN

Activities of the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem during
July and August 1951.

The attached report was obtained by our Levant States representative in the first week of September from a source who is well-informed on the ex-Mufti's affairs.

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ARAB STATES/PAKISTAN

Political

Activities of the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem during July/August 1951

Do not copy by phone.

The Reorganisation of the Arab Higher Committee

1. Hajj Amīr al-Husayn, The ex-Mufti has decided to hold a congress in SYRIA, either in September or October¹⁹⁵¹, to be attended by delegates from the Palestinian refugees. In preparation for this Congress, the ex-Mufti in August sent Khaled al-Farraj, ^{al-Farraj, one of his personal messengers} who has been with him in CAIRO for the last two years, on a visit to SYRIA and ~~the~~ LEBANON to make contact with these refugees.
2. The first task confronting the Congress will be to elect ~~another~~ five members to the Arab Higher Committee in addition to the five existing members, thus bringing it up to its agreed strength of ten, members including the ex-Mufti.

Executive Committee are:

At present the five members on the Arab Higher

The ex-Mufti Abu-Sa'ide
SA'AYEH
Sheikh Hasan ABDŪL-HĀDID
Ishraq DARWISH (al-Husayn)
Rafiq TAHIMI
~~Amīr Ghuri~~

3. The second task that the Mufti hopes that the Congress will carry out will be to abolish the GAZA Government. The ex-Mufti has quarrelled with Ahmed HILMI Pasha, the head of this Government, and is now planning to delegate its authority to the Arab Higher Committee.

4. Once the Arab Higher Committee is at full strength, the ex-Mufti intends to set up bureaux in HEDJAZ, IRAQ and NORTH AFRICA, similar to those already existing in BEIRUT and DAMASCUS. He also aims at creating a headquarters in CAIRO which will consist of departments dealing with political affairs, defense, refugees, and finance, and later

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to open propaganda centres in PAKISTAN, INDONESIA, CHINA, and SOUTH AMERICA.

Dissatisfaction with the Arab Countries.

5. The ex-Mufti has lost faith in the Arab countries and relies not on Governments but on the Moslem people as a whole. He is particularly interested in promoting congresses similar to the Economic Congress of the Moslem World recently held in KARACHI, and intends to establish a political body which will claim the support of Moslems all over the world.²

6. As a first step towards the realization of this idea, the ex-Mufti sent ^{Abd al-} ~~Abdel~~ Jalil SUKKAR, employed by an aircraft company in CAIRO, to IRAN in early July.³ SUKKAR was the bearer of a letter addressed to ^{Muhammad} ~~Ayatullah~~ KASHANI, the Iranian religious leader, in which the ex-Mufti suggested that KASHANI should be appointed the first honorary president of the IKHWAN-^{al-} MUSLIMIN for the entire Moslem world.⁴ KASHANI agreed to this proposal.⁴

Contacts with the Greek Orthodox Patriarch of ANTIOPH

7. ^{Amil Ghuri,} ~~Baldachini~~ was instructed by the ex-Mufti to contact the Greek Orthodox Patriarch of ANTIOPH on the latter's return from RUSSIA. The purpose of the visit would be to discover what the Patriarch had accomplished during his stay in RUSSIA.

Contacts with the Lebanese Prime Minister

8. During his stay in ALEXANDRIA for the meeting of the Political Committee of the Arab League, ^{Hilu} Abdullah YAFI, the Lebanese Prime Minister, accompanied by Charles ^{Wadi} ~~MEKHOU~~, ^{wadi} ~~the~~ Lebanese Minister for Foreign Affairs, received a visit from the ex-Mufti. ^{The} ex-Mufti requested that in the forthcoming meetings in PARIS of the Palestine Conciliation Commission, the Lebanese representative should propose that the 1947 ^{United Nations} decisions should be enforced. The ex-Mufti added that he would never accept the transfer of refugees to SINAI, but that he did not mind if they were sent to SYRIA or ~~or~~ LEBANON.

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Repercussions of the ex-Mufti's departure

9. ~~(if so far)~~ Immediately after the murder of King
ABDULLAH, the ex-Mufti sent ^{Salem al-Husayni} to DAMASCUS on a special
assignment to organize and lead a movement in SYRIA supporting the annexation
of JORDAN to SYRIA.

10. ~~Contract with~~ At the beginning of August, ^{Husayni} RAJAI HASSAN,
one of the ex-Mufti's active supporters, in CAIRO, delivered a letter from the
ex-Mufti to Haj Khalil TABBARA, a Beirut businessman who contracts for the
transport of pilgrims to the various shrines. On receipt of this
letter, TABBARA went to IRAN where he gave a letter to KASHANI. In this
letter, the ex-Mufti urged KASHANI to encourage support for EGYPT in the
question of the Suez Canal dispute. The ex-Mufti also enclosed a letter
addressed to AMAL-ULLAH, the Secretary of the KIRACII Moslem Congress. The
reason that this letter was not handed to the Pakistani Minister in CAIRO was
the ex-Mufti's mistrust of the latter on the grounds that he was pro-
British.